

Complaints Resolution Policy

Rationale:

- Our college has both a desire and a responsibility to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained by staff and students at all times, and that complaints are managed and resolved fairly, efficiently, promptly and in accordance with relative legislation.

Aims:

- To provide a harmonious, positive and productive school environment.
- To resolve complaints fairly, efficiently, promptly and in accordance with relative legislation.

Implementation:

- Our college seeks to provide a positive, harmonious and productive environment.
- It is the Director's responsibility to provide a healthy and positive school environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. In doing so, the Director must ensure that all staff are aware of their rights and responsibilities.
- The Director is required to use local complaints resolution procedures, where appropriate, for resolving complaints in relation to issues that fall within the school's area of responsibility. All cases of serious misconduct – sexual offences, criminal charges, other serious incidents – must instead be referred to the DEECD Complaints and Investigations Unit.
- It is incumbent upon the Director to act where unacceptable conduct is observed or brought to his or her attention.
- A complainant may at any stage choose to take their complaint directly to an external agency such as the Merit Protection Boards, Victorian Equal Opportunity Commission, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, a union of which they are a member or the Ombudsman.
- It is important that all complaints, ensuing procedures and outcomes are fully documented.
- The Director may choose to respond to a complaint through an informal process in cases where the complaint is minor, the complainant wishes the matter to be dealt with informally, or the complaint has arisen from lack of or unclear communication.
- Formal processes will be used when informal processes haven't been successful, a complainant seeks a formal process, or the director believes the complaint warrants formal investigation.
- Full details regarding formal complaint resolution procedures are contained within the Department of Education *'Guidelines for Managing Complaints, Misconduct and Unsatisfactory Performance'* handbook, and contain the following steps.
- The formal process involves:
 1. Investigating the complaint including formal interviews, written statements, conveying the details of the complaint to the respondent in writing providing the opportunity for a written response.
 2. Dismissing or Accepting the complaint. Acceptance may involve the Complaints & Investigations Unit, verbal or written warnings, conciliation, or counselling etc.
 3. Preparation of a detailed confidential report.

4. Monitoring of the situation.
- Parties dissatisfied with the process can appeal to the previously mentioned external agencies.
 - All matters must be treated with utmost confidentiality, and professional respect at all times.

School Council last ratified this policy in July 2014	Review: July 2017	Policy No: 4	Date Produced: June 2014
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References: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/workm/Pages/conduct.aspx>